(c) whether Government would consider processing a part of the Bombay High crude at MRPL with the expanded capacity at MRPL a Mangalore to handle imported crude from Sudan?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has not mooted any proposal for investing in oil processing and power generation sectors in Karnataka State.

In addition to concentrating on its areas of core competence, ONGC is exploring various options for diversification of its activities by forward and backward integration including power generation. In this context ONGC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Karnataka for setting up a Special Economic Zone at Mangalore, to facilitate development of the required infrastructure for ONGC's value addition projects, which are at a conceptual stage.

(c) Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) is already processing Mumbai High and Sudan crude oil, with increased capacity utilization at MRPL.

Indo-Pak co-operation in Hydrocarbon Sector

2014. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan have discussed in the month of September, 2004 the possible areas of cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector;

(b) whether any discussion between the Petroleum Ministers of Pakistan and India took place recently;

(c) if so, the details of the discussion and the outcome of the discussion;

(d) whether any proposal has been put forward by India in connection with exporting diesel from India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (e) The Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas has discussed cooperation in the hydrocarbons sector with the Pakistan

Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Pakistan Prime Minister at meetings in New Delhi on 6.9.2004 and 24.11.2004. The Prime Minister has also had discussions on the subject with the President of Pakistan in New York, on 24.9.2004. Access to hydrocarbon resources in the region, general cooperation in the hydrocarbons sector, and the possibility of Indian export of diesel to Pakistan were amongst the subjects discussed. A proposal has been made to Pakistan to delete diesel from the "negative list" which would enable diesel exports from India. Conversations without commitment have been initiated with Pakistan and Iran about the feasibility of Iran exporting natural gas to India through an overland pipeline. As the conversations are at a preliminary stage, no details have been worked out.

Funds for overseas acquisition

2015. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any financial constraint with ONGC/Government for acquiring oil and gas fields abroad; and

(b) if so, what is the magnitude of funds required and in what manner the ONGC propose to raise the required funds?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) To enhance the country's energy security in keeping with the objectives of the Energy Security section of the Natural Common Minimum Programme, ONGC-Videsh Ltd. (OVL), a subsidiary of ONGC has been pursuing the acquisition of equity oil abroad, as well as the acquisition abroad of oil and gas exploration acreages and producing properties. The funds for the overseas acquisitions are being met through internal accruals of OVL and through loans from the parent company, ONGC. An outlay of Rs. 13,550 crore has been approved in the Tenth Five Year Plan for OVL's Exploration and Production activities abroad.